varies between various cities and rural areas. While the servicee is not entirely satisfying, keeping in view the various constraints, it cannot be considered unsatisfactory.

Again, while the cost to the Indian customer may appear high in relation to the average per capita income, it compares favourably with the cost for similar service in many countries. This is creditable considering that the costs of equipment and materials in India is generally comparable or even more than in many of these countries.

(b) The over-head costs on telephones in India are among the lowest.

(c) It is true that the number of telephones per employee in India at 9.4 is significantly lower than in many countries. This, however, is due to the fact that to meet the maximum possible demand and extend the services to the maximum number of places within the limited investible resource many of the operations continue to be handled manually while these have been automated in other countries. Similarly many old technologies requiring large maintenance have to be retained.

Funds for Kashi Vidyapeeth

*439. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has recently requested for allocation of funds for the Kashi Vidyapeeth;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the request; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d) Out of the funds allocated to the University Grants Commission, a development grant of Rs. 60 lakhs has been approved for Kashi Vidyapeeth during the Seventh Plan as per details given below:—

	(Rs. lakhs)
Buildings	20
Books and journals	15
Equipment	4
Staff (teaching, technical)	21

Steps to popularise Sanskrit

*440. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps were taken by Government to popularise the Sanskrit language and its learning in the country during the year 1986-87; z

(b) whether it is a fact that teaching and learning of Sanskrit in the lower educational curriculum has declined because of the three-language formula;

(c) what measures are being taken to promote Sanskrit education; and

(d) what amount was spent on promotion of Sanskrit in the country during 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO). (a) and (c) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) It is true that the Three Language Formula does not specifically in-

clude Sanskrit as one of the languages to be studied at the secondary stage. The National Policy on Education, 1968 did, however, mention that facilities for teaching of Sanskrit at the school and university stages should be offered on a more liberal scale. This has been reiterated in the National Policy on Education, 1986 and this is being implemented.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 548.11 lakhs was incurred on promotion of Sanskrit in the year 1986-87.

Statement

The Government have taken the following steps to popularise the Sanskrit language and its learning in the year 1986-87:

1. An amount of Rs. 234.29 lakhs was released to Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan for teaching and research in Sanskrit on traditional lines which runs 8 Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeethas in different parts of the country. One Vidyapeeth was started during 1986-87 at Lucknow.

2. Grants to the extent of 95 per cent on recurring and 75 per cent on non-recurring items were sanctioned to 14 Adarsn Sanskrit Pathshalas |Sodh Sansthans located in different parts of the country. The expenditure on this during the financial year 1986-87 was Rs. 42 lakhs.

3. Financial assistance were sanctioned to about 650 voluntary organisations|institutions engaged in promotion and propagation of Sanskrit for their various activities to the extent of 75 per cent of their expenditure. The expenditure on this during 1986-87 was Rs. 55 lakhs.

4. For preservation of tradition of deep shastric knowledge about 120 eminent and retired Sanskrit scholars were appointed in famous Sanskrit institutions on consolidated honorarium of Rs. 1000|- p.m. The expenditure on this was Rs. 8.78 lakhs.

5. Ten eminent Sanskrit scholars were honoured by the President's Certificate of Honour. These and scholars honoured earlier, numbering in all 123 were paid annual amount of Rs. 5000|-. The expenditure on this was Rs. 6.15 lakhs.

6. An All India Vedic Convention and an All India Sanskrit Elocution contests were organised at Kurukshetra (Haryana). Expenditure on this was Rs. 1.48 lakhs.

7. Six Regional Vedic Conferences were organised in different parts of the country. About Rs. 2 lakhs were spent on this.

8. Grants to the extent of 95 per cent were sanctioned to 24 Veda Pathshalas in different parts of the country. In addition to this 8 Vedic Units were sanctioned cent per cent grant for preservation of traditional recitation of different branches of 4 Vedas.

9 Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned to Government of Kerala for establishment of a Sanskrit University at Kalady (Kerala).

10. Rs. 37 lakhs were sanctioned to the State Governments and Union Territories for the following programmes of Sanskrit : Rs. 83 lakhs for financial assistance to 1662 Sanskrit scholars in indigent circumstances; Rs. 1.08 lakhs for providing facilities for teaching Sanskrit in schools; Rs. 1.73 lakhs for scholarships to the school students; and Rs. 1.19 lakhs for modernisation of Sanskrit Pathshalas.

11. To encourage the writers of Sanskrit an amount of Rs. 8.69 lakhs were spent during 1986-87 for purchasing Sanskrit books for free distribution to different educational institutions.

12. An amount of Rs. 1.45 lakhs was sanctioned for bringing out 25 Sanskrit journals.

13. An amount of Rs. 6.26 lakhs was sanctioned to the individuals| publishers for production of Sanskrit literature.

14. An amount of Rs. 1.07 lakhs was sanctioned for collection editing and publication of the rare manuscripts.

15. An amount of Rs. 9.05 lakhs was sanctioned for the purpose of scholarship to the students of postmatric, shastri acharya and that of traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas|Research scholars.

16. An amount of Rs. 5.60 lakhs was sanctioned to Deccan College, Pune for preparation and publication of an encyclopaedic Dictionary of Sanskrit based on historical principles.

17. For organising work-shops for the vocational training to the students of traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas an amount of Rs. 2.98 lakhs was sanctioned. It was cent per cent grant for the purpose.

18. To popularise the vedic education Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan was established and for this an amount of Rs. 23.95 lakhs was sanctioned as a corpus fund.

All these programmes are containing in the current year also. Apart from the programmes mentioned above, a meeting of eminent educationists and Sanskrit scholars was held at Tirupati on 30-1-87 under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development in which suggestions were received for promotion and propagation of Sanskrit at schools, college|University as well as traditional Sanskrit Pathshala levels.. These suggestions are under consideration of this Ministry.

Amendment of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules

@3594. SHRI M. S. GURUPDASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules relating to registration of new drugs;

(b) whether an inter-departmental coordination Committee has gone through these amendments;

(c) whether this Committee also discussed any other issues pertaining to drugs; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Draft amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules on registration of new drugs have been published in the Gazette of India for eliciting public comments. This is in pursuance of the 'Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in India' announced by the Government of India.

(b) to (d) There is no inter-departmental coordination committee. The draft amendment on New Drug Registration is based on the "Guidelines on introduction of new drugs in India" drawn in consultation with Drugs Technical Advisory Board.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2493, transferred from the 17th August 1987